

D-8177

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S.1. Special Branch *Shuttle*

REPORT

Date December 9, 1937

Subject. Disappearance of Mr. C.M. Robertson.

Made by. D.S.I. Laurier

Forwarded by. *C. Crawford*

Attached, for information, is a copy of a report made by Mr. Russell Engdahl, of the United States Consulate-General on his investigations into the disappearance of Mr. C.M. Robertson.

With regard to the mention made in the report of the burial of Mr. Lam Wing Yan, the Chinese technician who co-operated with Mr. Robertson in his work and who was killed in the explosion which took place in Pootung on November 4: enquiries were made at the China Funeral Home, 670 Avenue Haig, where it was ascertained that on the evening of November 5, a conveyance was sent by the Funeral Home to the Nantao Bund at the request of Mrs. Lam Wing Yan who resides at 273 Seymour Road. After an all night wait the body of Mr. Lam was brought over from Pootung by coolies in the employ of the Bureau of Sea Survey, Fengling-Jao, and was then removed to the Funeral Home mortuary to be prepared for burial. The China Funeral Home employees could give no information which might have been of any assistance to the investigation, and none of the coolies employed to transport the body across the river could be interrogated owing to hostilities.

Diligent enquiries have failed to establish Mr. Robertson's fate and there is no indication at present in view of the circumstances, that his death, if he is dead, will ever be confirmed.

for families
D. S. I.

D.C. (Special Branch).

MEMORANDUM ON THE DISAPPEARANCE OF CHARLES MORGAN ROBERTSON AND REPORT OF INVESTIGATION AT THE SCENE OF THE EXPLOSION IN POOTUNG WHILE ROBERTSON IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN WORKING.

November 13, 1937

At ten o'clock this morning in company with Lieutenant Phelan of the U. S. S. AUGUSTA I went to Pootung to the scene of the explosion which is believed to have resulted in the death of Robertson. Mr. Restel Scott of the International Funeral Directors also came along. En route we stopped at the Japanese Consulate General to pick up Mr. Wajima of the Japanese Embassy. We then proceed to the IZUMO to get Commander Hidaka and from there went to the Pootung factory of the Yee Tsoung Tobacco Co. near whose property the explosion took place. We were shown to the scene by several men from the Company including Mr. Taylor, the factory superintendent.

It appears that the Chinese were engaged in the manufacture of torpedoes and/or mines which were to be used to sink the IZUMO. These were being manufactured in a Chinese two story building on the corner of two alleys. The building had various Yee Tsoung buildings on two sides and on one side was the property of the firm Olivier Chine. The house was the last in a row of Chinese houses extending for perhaps 125 feet. The scene of the explosion is one of indescribable wreckage and destruction. The house itself has been totally destroyed so that there is no evidence whatever as to what it was like before the explosion. There is a crater in the ground which is about seven feet deep and about ten feet in diameter. The testimony of everyone who is in a position to know through proximity to the scene or otherwise is that the explosion was definitely not the

result of a Japanese aerial bomb as there were no planes in the immediate vicinity at the time of the explosion which occurred at 2:58 p. m., November 4, 1937. It seems virtually certain that the explosion resulted from in-expert handling of a torpedo or mine. The number of dead is variously estimated at from fifteen to sixty with Robertson as the only foreign casualty.

Robertson had apparently been engaged on this work for at least three weeks. On Tuesday, the 2nd, he had told his wife that he was all finished with the job but the next morning Lam Wing Yang, the principal Chinese engaged on the work, called at Robertson's house and told him something had gone wrong and that his further aid was necessary. He returned to Pootung that day and apparently stayed all night as he did not get home until 6 a. m. Thursday morning according to his wife. He left again at half past nine and was seen by several people from the cigarette factory at times between 10:30 and noon. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Davey as well as a Russina watchman state that they saw him although they did not speak to him. Mr. Taylor further states that he learns from some of his Chinese staff that Robertson went to Shanghai at noon and only returned at 2:00 p. m. and that he believes this information to be correct. When the explosion occurred at 2:58 none of the factory people were near the scene as most of them had either returned to Shanghai or were some distance from- away in other parts of the compound.

The explosion must have been of terrific force as is evidenced by the terrific destruction caused not only to the house which Robertson was using but to other houses in the row and to the Yee Tsoong properties. The tobacco company estimates its losses at from \$250,000 to \$300,000 local currency. Its printing plant suffered most with all windows

shattered and even their steel frames blown out. Part of the walls are seriously damaged and machinery is scattered about in various stages of damage. A 5-ton lathe was blasted from its position and turned completely around and moved several yards from its original position. Another one story building has one wall almost completely down and part of the roof blown off. All windows in the vicinity are of course shattered. The Yee Tsoong property is surrounded by an eight foot concrete wall which is also largely destroyed in the area covered by the explosion.

It should be mentioned that the principal reason for the journey was the fact that Mr. Yui Ming, head of the Shanghai office of the Waichiaopou, had told Mr. Butrick that he had sent a party to the scene on the tenth and that they had collected the remains of what they believed to be Mr. Robertson's body and had placed them in a Chinese coffin which had been then buried just beneath the surface of the ground at the scene of the disaster. I had told Mr. Faupel, the acting U. S. Coroner, that I would be going over but as final arrangements were made after office hours I was not able to inform him of the time of departure. He had already informed me, however, that he wished the Consulate General to take charge and that if we should recover the body and bring it back to Shanghai that he would then, of course, hold an inquest.

Mr. Yui Ming's information would appear to be in error as we were unable to find any evidence whatever of a Chinese or other coffin at the scene of the explosion. There is an enormous amount of wreckage and debris and this did not appear to have been recently disturbed. We did considerable work in moving wreckage and debris but were absolutely unable to find any evidence of a coffin. However, we did find a basket concealed under a large sheet of tar paper and a

sheet of galvanized iron. The basket contained the remains of part of a corpse; the head was missing as was one arm and one leg. It was in such an advanced state of decomposition that identification was impracticable, there being evidence that dogs and cats had been at the body before it was put in the basket. The body was carefully wrapped in paper. It is my own opinion that Mr. Yui's party probably went to the scene, found only this corpse, wrapped it in paper, put it in a basket and then carefully covered it with roofing paper and a galvanized sheet. This body was not considered to be that of Robertson for two reasons: 1.) it was that of a small man with rather small hands and short arms whereas Robertson had unusually large hands and limbs. The body's one arm ~~was~~ was the only part which was not almost completely decomposed. 2.) what little clothing remained on the body was that of a coolie being of ordinary cheap cotton goods such as coolies customarily wear. There did not appear to be anything in the clothing of any kind.

We later found another body which, except for the skull, was pretty much concealed by debris. We moved some of the wreckage and found two dogs which were and had been for some time eating at the body. This body was obviously that of a Chinese as the clothes were those of a coolie and were almost intact. The head was also shaved and the body appeared to be that of a small sized man.

It is certain that there are other bodies buried beneath the debris as the stench from certain places was most pronounced. It would be necessary to clear away the debris in order to bring out the bodies and this require a considerable ~~few~~ number of coolies and might not be entirely safe as there is still the danger of mines in the vicinity. I have asked the Yee Tsoong people to let us know when the job of clearing away the wreckage is started so that we may have a representative there at the

time. However, as the property concerned belongs to Chinese and as the area is now in Japanese hands it is difficult to say when the task of cleaning up will be started. After such a lapse of time the matter of identification would also be difficult but it might be possible to identify the body, if found, by the clothes or by the teeth as Dr. Reuben Lenzer recently did some work on them and would recognize it.

There is also the possibility, a very definite one, that Robertson's body was taken away after the explosion as were several others. It is said that Lam's body was recovered and that he was buried by a Chinese undertaker. I have asked the police to investigate this report. If Robertson's body was removed I think the chances of ever learning its disposition are remote. It may, of course, have been so badly mangled that it can never be found.

I think it proper that something should be said of the attitude of Mrs. Robertson in the case. She has not in every case told the truth and has held back items which would be assistance in solving the case. She has frequently called the press to complain of the treatment she was receiving from the Consulate General. I understand that this morning she called the United Press and objected to our taking an undertaker to the scene. She said that we should not do this ^{until} if we knew that Robertson was definitely dead. When I informed her of the results of the investigation she thanked me for our activities in the case and for our assistance.

I think that the principal reason for failure to learn more of the truth in this case and to find Robertson's body lies in the unfortunate attitude assumed by the Chinese authorities from the beginning. If they had immediately instituted thorough inquiries when we first requested them to do so on November 6th, I feel that the whole matter

could have been cleared up. As it is, valuable time has been wasted through the dilatoriness of the Chinese authorities who were in complete control of the area until the night of November 16th/17th. They could have instituted a thorough search of the ruins and could have said what disposition was made of the body if it had been removed.

For the present I do not see what further steps can be taken by the Consulate General unless we should undertake to clear the wreckage at the site of the explosion but this does not seem to me to be our proper job. Further investigations can be made with the assistance of the police and it is possible that we shall thus learn more than we know at present.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S.1, Special French Station

REPORT

Date November 19, 1937.

Subject Alleged arrest of Mr. C. A. Robertson by the Chinese troops in Foochow.

Made by and Forwarded by P. S. I. I. M. I.

With reference to the attached report by Crime Branch Headquarters relative to a statement by one A.S. Michaelove of 479 Route Vallon, who was detained by the S.W. Special District Court between August 20 and November 3 on a charge of committing an offence against the internal security of the state: Michaelove was questioned on November 19 by the undersigned regarding his allegation of Mr. C. A. Robertson's arrest by the Chinese Authorities and he made the following verbal statement.

On being arrested he was kept in the Chinese block in the French Concession Gaol until October 20 when he appeared before the 1st Special District (High) Court. After a summary trial he was transferred to Cell No. 39 in the S.2 Lin-Lu Gaol, City, the same day, where he remained until 4th November, when he was returned to the French Concession Gaol from where he was released at 12 noon on November 6. On October 28, he states, at which time he was in the S.2 Lin-Lu Gaol, a foreigner from the Chinese wizards referred to as "Tolka," was brought in and locked up in Cell No. 39. His description of this foreigner is as follows:-

Age about 30, very tall and heavily built, thick neck, full face showing signs of severe illtreatment, large flowing mustache, dirty, unkempt hair and several days growth of hair on his chin, wearing dark trousers and a white tennis shirt with half the collar torn off.

This foreigner spoke with a harsh, American accent, in terms of violent abuse of the Chinese troops who, he alleged, had arrested him in Foochow for being a spy, adding that at the time of his arrest he was assisting a wounded Chinese

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wishes to escape to a place of safety.

In the early morning of October 31st, Michaelove stated, this foreigner was taken away and he did not see him again.

Mr. Robert Davies subsequently approached Michaelove and denied that her husband were a fugitive and states that from the outbreak of hostilities to the 4th November he did not spend one night away from home.

Furthermore, she denied that her husband had been arrested by the Chinese authorities, adding that she would have known had this been the case. Michaelove's statement cannot, therefore, be credited.

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pc Lamont
D. S. I.

D.S. (Special Branch)

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT OF POLICE INVESTIGATIONS.

translation of
The following is the statement of Alexander Michaelove.....
native of Russian.....taken by me D. I. Maklaevsky.....
at the C. C. B. on the 16/11/37.....and interpreted by D. I. Maklaevsky.....

States :-

Around the end of October 1937, whilst I was being held in custody on suspicion of being a spy at the Shanghai Kweisung Garrison Commander's Headquarters, Lungtwa, at about 3 o'clock in the morning a foreigner was brought in.

Later in the morning I saw this foreigner. He was a tall, strongly built man of about 38 years of age and had several days growth of beard. He was dressed in dark trousers and a dirty white shirt. When I spoke to him in Russian he answered me in English. He said he was an American (Canadian) and that he was accused of being a spy. He denied this, stating that he was absolutely innocent and had not done any harm to the Chinese. He further stated that he was arrested in Pootung whilst he was helping a wounded Chinese woman and that Chinese suspected him of being there for the purpose of spying on the Chinese position. When he was called out by Chinese warders, they used to call him by the name of "LOBLGCHOU". He spent in the Gaol two days and on the morning of the third day at about 4 o'clock he was taken out.

I had no chance to have a thorough conversation with him because our cells were far from each other and moreover the conversation was strictly forbidden. Later a Chinese warden told me that he was executed.

When I was released I heard of Mr. Robertson and therefore I thought that this was the same person.

The name of that person spoken in Chinese sounded very much like that of Robertson, although I could not definitely state that this was Mr. Robertson.

Signed: A. Michaelove.

16/11/37.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S.1. Special Branch/9/11/11,

REPORT

Date November 16, 1937

Subject (in full) Reported death of Mr. C.M. Robertson.

Made by D.S.I. Laurier

Forwarded by C. G. G.

With further reference to this Section's report of November 8 on the above subject: I have to report that one named Ying Dien Ming (印殿明), of 19 Pei Teh Li, Tatung Road, a former employee of the Silver Taxi Service who accompanied Mr. Robertson and his party to Pootung on November 3rd and who was involved in the explosion which occurred there on the following day, has been located and has been questioned regarding his knowledge of the incident. His statement, a translation of which is attached hereto, merely confirms what has so far been ascertained but throws no new light on Mr. Robertson's fate.

D.S.I.

Copy to U.S. Authority

D.C. (Special Branch).

Copy sent to
Consul J. Russell Ingoldsby
J.W.



Translation of Statement

My name is Ying Dien Ming (英殿明). I am 26 years old and a native of Tientsin. I was formerly employed as a coolie in the Mechanical Department of the Silver Taxi Company. Mr. Robertson was at that time the foreign foreman mechanic and Zee Fah Shing was the Chinese foreman. In the summer, 1937, the Silver Taxi Company closed the Repairs Department and contracted with the Ford Hire Service for its repairs with the result that Mr. Robertson, and some fifteen Chinese mechanics were forced to sever their connection with the Company.

On October 18, Mr. Robertson and fifteen others, including Zee Fah Shing, went to the Bureau of Sea Survey, City Government Road, Feng Ling Jao, Nantao. I was called by Mr. Robertson to that place on October 19 for the purpose of constructing torpedos for which I was to be paid \$2.00 a day. I was assigned to coiling electric wires on wooden sticks. I was told by other mechanics that this work was connected with torpedo construction.

At 10 a.m., on November 2nd ^{or} 3rd, we numbering some fifteen persons, assembled at the Bund (near Avenue Edward VII), and proceeded to Lan Nyi Doo, Pootung, by native boat, under the leadership of Mr. Robertson. We worked in a block of ten houses (one storeyed), next to the Yee Tsoong Tobacco Company. I and the other mechanics remained in the house that night but Mr. Robertson and Zee Fah Shing did not do so. We continued work on the following day (November 3rd or 4th). We were divided into several parties each consisting of some four or five persons and each occupying a room. At 12 noon, on November 3rd or 4th, Mr. Robertson, and Zee Fah Shing and one Mr. Ling, representing the Chinese Authorities, came to our workshop and told us to take tiffin. Four of us went out to tiffin while Mr. Robertson, Zee Fah Shing and Mr. Ling remained. We returned at 1 p.m. and saw Mr.

Robertson and Zee Fah Shing standing in the compound. We continued our work in the house, but were unable to look through the window, or pass to any other portion of the house as we were strictly forbidden to do this by Mr. Robertson. At 2.30 p.m. the house suddenly collapsed and I lost consciousness. I did not hear any sound before the collapse. When I recovered I discovered that I was covered with debris. I extricated myself and went to the Pootung hospital, where I was confined for two days. Following the withdrawal of the Chinese troops from Pootung, I was removed from the Pootung hospital to the Ningpo Guild, Min Kuo Road. I remained there for one night and returned home on or about November 8. At present I reside at house No. 19 Pei Teh Li (培德里), Tatung Road, which is occupied by the Wong Yung ^{Kee} Shing Tailor Shop (王永記成衣店). I do not know where Mr. Robertson and Zee Fah Shing were when the accident occurred, and I have no knowledge of their fate or present whereabouts. Just before and at the time of the accident, the sound of an aeroplane over the workshop was noticed, but I heard no explosion which might have been connected with the presence of the aeroplane. I saw four torpedoes under construction each about 8/9 feet in length and 18" in diameter. I also observed 4 drums of explosive powder, each weighing about 200 catties, stored in another room, but I cannot tell whether these drums of powder were affected by the explosion or not, or whether or not they were the cause of the accident.

(Signed) Ying Dien Ming.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S.1. Special Branch Section

REPORT

Date November 8, 1937.

Subject..... Reported accident to Mr. C.M. Robertson and a party of Chinese in Pootung on November 4, 1937

Made by D.S.I. Laurier

Forwarded by

With further reference to this section's report of November 6, on the above subject: I have to report having made further enquiries with the following results.

Mr. Charles Morgan Robertson, American, who was born in Philadelphia, Pa., on March 17, 1892, was a motor mechanical engineer of considerable ability whose only bar to success seems to have been an inability to adjust his temperament to the requirements of his employer. He was formerly in the United States Army from which he resigned when his regiment was stationed in Tientsin. He married in Tientsin in 1918 and came to Shanghai about nine years ago. He obtained a position with Monigsberg & Son, Automobile Distributors, with whom he stayed until the dissolution of the firm several years ago. His next appointment was with Messrs. Mark L. Moody, Automobile Distributors, 80 Avenue Edward VII, with whom he was employed as Service Superintendent. He held this post until about one year ago, when he resigned through some disagreement with the management, from which time until June 1937 he was employed with the Silver Taxi Service. He then opened a motor repair shop of his own, The Shanghai Auto Service, at F.S. 358 Avenue Haig. This venture had not, however, got quite under way when the present hostilities broke out and his business came to an absolute standstill. At this time he was living on Point Island but on the outbreak of hostilities he removed to the address of his wife, who is owner-operator of Radio Station X.Q.H.B. (820 K.C.) at 274 Rue Maresca, with whom he has not been on amicable terms for some time past.

Two copies handed to U.S. Consul F. Russell -
E.S. 11/11. Engdahl

C.P.
Mr. Laurier
would like me
to open where I
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- 8 Nov 1937

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Mr. Robertson had recently become very closely associated with a Mr. Lam Wing Yan (Ling Yung An (凌永安)), a young Chinese of smart appearance and superior education who was well known among local motor engineers for his remarkable knowledge of mechanics. In addition to Mr. Lam, Mr. Robertson had collected about him an odd assortment of some 18 to 20 Chinese comprising motor mechanics, electricians, iron smiths, etc., some of whom had worked for him in Tientsin and others whom he had formerly employed in various capacities in Shanghai. Although some estrangement existed between Mr. and Mrs. Robertson it soon became evident to Mrs. Robertson that her husband, who confided in her enough to give point to conclusions drawn from her own observations, was engaged in some important and secret capacity with the Chinese Military Authorities and that Mr. Lam and the Chinese artisans referred to above were assisting him in this project.

Mr. Robertson for the past three weeks has left his home in Rue Maresca every day for an address in or adjacent to the City Government, Nantao, and constantly visited the Lunghwa, Pootung and Siccawei districts in connection with his work.

At 12 noon on November 3, Mr. Robertson, accompanied by Mr. Lam Wing Yan and thirteen artisans proceeded by motor truck from the Bureau of Survey, Feng Ling Jao, where they had assembled, to Nanking Road Jetty where they boarded a ferry which conveyed them to Lan Nyi Doo, Pootung, where the party disembarked. From here the party proceeded on foot to a building situated inland and adjacent to the Yee Tsoong Tobacco Company's factory, Pootung. This building

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was one storeyed and the party, on entering were assigned to various tasks on the ground and first floors. Mr. Robertson and Mr. Lam Wing Yan returned to the Settlement late that evening, the former going to 274 Rue Maresca and the latter to his home at 21, no. 273 Seymour Road; the Chinese artisans remaining in the building in Pootung that night. At 9.30 a.m., the following day, November 4, Mr. Robertson and Mr. Lam left the former's address and returned to the building in Pootung where work was resumed. A survivor of the explosion which occurred later that day, one named Mao Han Yue (毛汉月), resident at 375 Rue Ratard states that his particular task was to heat oil on a fire outside the premises. He is a coolie of low intelligence but whether this fact is responsible for his ignorance of the significance of the work being carried out by himself and his co-workers or whether his taciturnity is due to his having been bound to secrecy it cannot be ascertained but apart from stating that one man was engaged in making small oblong boxes and others were cutting tin and iron, no other information of the nature of the work that was being performed can be obtained from him. However, this man states that Japanese aeroplanes had been flying over the building and its vicinity all the morning without dropping bombs, and that about 4 p.m. in the afternoon there was a terrific explosion from some cause unknown and he lost consciousness. When he regained possession of his senses he was lying on the ground and was partially covered with bricks and dirt and a wooden beam. He then discovered that apart from a gash on his forehead and an abrasion of

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the left leg he was unharmed, so he extricated himself from his encumbrances and fled, not waiting to ascertain the fate of the other members of the party. After being treated in a nearby dressing station he crossed the river reaching Nanking Road jetty at about 6 p.m. This man is unable to state whether Mr. Robertson was in or in the vicinity of the building at the time of the explosion or not.

As regards the actual locality of the explosion, it has now been ascertained from other sources that at about 4 p.m. November 4 a terrific explosion occurred in a small area situated about half a mile inland and bounded on the North and East by the Yee Tsoong Tobacco Company's compound, on the West by the Olivier-Chine and on the South by a road. The explosion demolished part of the eight feet high concrete wall surrounding the Yee Tsoong Tobacco Company and completely destroyed a brick and mortar building in the compound. This building is situated 320 feet away from the crater made by the explosion. What damage actually occurred in the compound of Olivier-Chine cannot be ascertained. However, Chinese members of the staff of Olivier-Chine formerly occupied a portion of a block of houses belonging to the firm which are situated in the area referred to, opposite the Olivier-Chine compound. The end house of this block has apparently been completely destroyed and it seems that this is probably the house in which Mr. Robertson and his party are stated to have been working. Enquiries amongst business houses having factories in the immediate vicinity of the explosion have failed to elicit anything which might throw any light on the fate of Mr. Robertson. The body of a foreigner has

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not been seen in the vicinity by any one, apparently.

Some assert that only Chinese soldiers were killed whilst others state that a number of Chinese civilians were also killed. One body was hurled some distance into the Yee Tsoong Compound. Everyone, however, is unanimous that the explosion was caused by a land mine or other similar destructive force and not by a bomb, and that the explosion did not actually originate in any building, but near to a roadway running parallel with the east side of Olivier-Chine. There appear to have been a number of Chinese soldiers stationed in the vicinity.

Enquiries amongst people resident or in business on the Bund who heard the explosion reveal that it was one of unprecedented force, the resultant cloud of smoke and debris being clearly seen directly behind the Olivier-Chine Factory.

Since the occurrence the relatives of a number of those men who are supposed to have perished have made efforts to try to induce Mrs. Robertson to intercede, on their behalf, with General Yang Hu of 11 Route Doumer by whom they allege, the deceased artisans were employed. These people have been questioned and either know, or profess to know, very little of the affair apart from the fact that Mr. Lam Wing Yan was commissioned to do the work by General Yang Hu, with whom he was in constant touch, and that their menfolk, at the time of the accident, were doing special and secret work for the Chinese Military Authorities under the indirect supervision of General Yang Hu, who had not so far paid them any thing for their services. These relatives have now addressed a petition to General Yang Hu for financial

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reimbursement and reward for services rendered the Government by their husbands. In addition to this several of the workers are stated to have expended what seem to their relatives to be considerable sums of money in the purchase of material for the undertaking; they having been promised reimbursement of such monies on completion of the undertaking plus a handsome reward for their services should their endeavours meet with success. Zee Chih-foh (李志福), one of those believed to be dead is stated by his wife, Zee Wong Sz (李永才) of 375 Rue Ratard, to have spent \$475.22 in tools and material, for which bills have been produced, and \$23.00 for cement, which cannot be accounted. It is doubtful whether this man has himself spent so large a sum of money. One bill totalling \$345.70 is made out to "The Soong-Wu Garrison Commander's Headquarters" so Zee Chih-foh may have bought the material with money given him by someone else. Mrs. Robertson has produced similar bills amounting to \$799.44 incurred by her husband and they are given hereunder in detail:-

Hung Tai Chang & Company,
580-2 North Soochow Road.

October 17, 1937 - 14 lbs 1/16" Insertion rubber	\$7.00
10 lbs Tin solder	\$8.50
2 doz. 12" hacksaw blades GP/SSS	\$3.60
2 doz. 3/8" x 1-3/4" Iron set	
screws Hex. Hd.	\$0.70
3 doz. 3/8" polish nuts	\$0.90
one gross 1/4"x 1/4" set	
screws sq. hd.	\$2.45

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	one gross 1/4" polish nuts	\$1.80
	one gross 3/16"x 3/4" machine	
	screw R.H.	\$0.45
	one gross 3/16" square nuts	\$0.30
October 19, 1937 -	2 pcs 14" 2nd flat file	\$3.12
	1 pcs 14" 2nd round file	\$1.40
	1 pcs 12" 2nd round file	\$1.04
	1 " 10" 2nd round file	\$0.76
	1/2 doz. No.1 emery cloth	\$0.50
	1/2 " No.2 " "	\$0.60
	2 pcs 8" 2nd flat file	\$1.28
	1½ lbs 3/8" high speed steel	
	square	\$6.45
	5 lbs 1/2" red fibre	\$7.00
	2 bottles Soldering acid	\$0.40
October 20, 1937 -	7-1/8 lbs No.19 Phosphor	
	Bronze sheets	\$17.10
October 25, 1937 -	11-3/8 lbs Brass rod	\$7.39
	7½ lbs Copper tube	\$10.50
	12½ lbs brass tube	\$17.50
	1-7/8 lbs Red fibre	\$2.25
October 26, 1937 -	1 set 3/16" hand taps GTD	\$2.00
	2 pcs 5/32" twist drills "OK"	\$0.50
	1 gross 3/16"x 5/8" machine	
	screw round head	\$0.45
	1 gross 3/16" x 1/2" machine	
	screw round head	\$0.45
	1 gross Hand rills	\$4.50

Zee Fah Shing Automobile Bodyworks,
375 Route Ratard.

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November 1, 1937 - 1 Iron tank & pipe	\$1.20
1 Air box	\$3.00
Rice	\$13.90
18 lbs 2" x 1/8" iron bar	\$2.26
2 pkts Charcoal	\$2.00
30 ft 1½" angle iron	\$6.25
2 pcs 3/16" drills	\$0.40
1 pce 5/16" drills	\$0.34
1 bottle acid	\$0.30
1 roll Rope	\$0.40
32 ft Steel wire	\$2.24
8 pcs Plugs and sockets	\$1.72
3 lbs Red powder	\$1.44
1/2 lb Oil	\$0.24
10 lbs White paint	\$0.80
7 sheets G.I. sheets	\$18.55
7 lbs 3/8" iron rods	\$0.70
5 sheets 3 ply wood 7' x 3'	\$6.50
1 length 8'x3"x 1' Wood	\$4.75
2 pcs Iron solder and zinc	\$2.67
1 length 1/2" brass pipe	\$2.50
6 sheets 4' x 8' x 1/32"	
iron sheets	\$39.06
27 lbs Aluminium	\$32.40
4'10" Steam pipe	\$ 9.67
2 pcs 3" paint brushes	\$0.60
12 pcs 3" steel gears	\$31.20
Made one aluminium hand	
bracket	\$1.50

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

Station,

REPORT

Date...

- 9 -

Subject...

Made by

Forwarded by

Cast 10 pcs brass plugs (5 lbs)	\$3.60
Rickshaw fare	\$4.50
Made 3 pcs water steering frame	\$36.00
36 lbs Tar	\$4.56

China Unique Electric Works,
Lane 109, 15 Hart Road.

October 28, 1937 - Making 5 shafts as per sample	\$20.00
Fixing iron flanges to	
6 fibre gears	\$9.00
Making one cap pin as per	
sample	\$3.00
4 old induction coils	\$14.00

Bills Motors,
Cr. Avenue Foch & Route Cardinal Mercier.

October 26, 1937 - 1 Switch No.1030 E	\$0.80
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Da Shing Works,
154 Rue Maresca.

October 26, 1937 - 8 pcs Round boards	\$3.20
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Foch Tire & Auto Supply Co.,
No.490 Avenue Foch.

October 26, 1937 - 1 switch	\$1.00
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Zung Chong Electric & Sanitary Co.,
1644-6 Bubbling Well Road.

October 23, 1937 - 1 pce Button	\$6.00
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Lee Chong & Co.,
No.145 Moulmein Road.

October 27, 1937 - To make 4 sets iron housing	
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@ \$30.50 per set	\$122.00
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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

Station,

REPORT

Date... 19

Subject...

- 10 -

Made by

Forwarded by

Make 4 pcs. big gears		
@ \$10.50 each		\$42.00
Make 4 pcs. aluminium fan		
leaves @ \$5.00 each		\$20.00
Make 8 sets iron switch		
puncher shells @ \$9.50		
per set.		\$76.00
Make 9 pcs. Motor Covers		
@ \$3.80 each		\$34.20
Make 4 sets Brass Shaft		
housings @ \$8.00 each		\$32.00
Make 12 pcs. gear housings		
@ \$1.00 each		\$12.00
True up 5 pcs. motor shafts		
@ \$1.50 each		\$ 7.50
Bills made in Chinese which are		
included in the attached		
list		\$58.70
		\$799.44

So much has been ascertained to be fact.

As regards the actual nature of the undertaking on which Mr. Robertson was engaged the following information which has been gleaned by careful enquiry during the past few days has now been confirmed by a gentleman of unimpeachable integrity who has known Mr. Robertson for a number of years and in whom Mr. Robertson confided without restraint.

Mr. Robertson first met General Yang Hu in business and the two men are known to have subsequently met on familiar terms. Mr. Robertson frequently said during the past two or three weeks that "that General whose car I used

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Station,

REPORT

Date... 19

- 11 -

Subject...

Made by...

Forwarded by...

to fix up" had engaged him at a monthly salary of \$1,500.00 on some work of great importance as a result of which the Japanese boats in the river would one day be sent to the bottom. When questioned recently as to the date on which this was to happen he stated, "Thursday the 4th." On Mr. Robertson's own statement he was engaged in building a submarine for the Chinese Authorities which was to be energized by dry cell batteries and capable of carrying two torpedoes each loaded with 500 lbs. of T.N.T. The submarine was not capable of total submersion but was capable of cruising several feet beneath the surface with only the perescope above water. Nothing is known of the principle underlying the capacity of the vessel for remaining at a fixed depth but Mr. Robertson on being asked one day, replied that the vessel's power of submersion was controlled by valves. General Yang Hu showed great interest in the progress of the work, which was being carried out in the vicinity of Lunghwa, and one day several hours after a successful trial run of the vessel had been made by the Chinese mechanics in the absence of Mr. Robertson, the vessel sank to the bottom of the river as a result of carelessness on the part of the mechanics who had failed to adjust these valves properly. This carelessness occasioned much labour and loss of time in raising the vessel again. It is understood that the submarine was to have been removed under its own power to the Kiaochow Creek where a base was being prepared for it.

How far the work on the vessel had progressed up to the time of the explosion in Pootung is not known. However,

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Station,

REPORT

Date... 19

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Subject:

Made by, Forварден by

it is generally thought that land or sea mines may also have occupied Mr. Robertson's attention but this has just been surmised by the general trend of statements which he is known to have made.

Mr. Faupel, United States marshal, states that he would greatly appreciate any co-operation which the police are able to give him in trying to ascertain the true fate of Mr. Robertson, because if he has been killed and the whereabouts of the body can be ascertained then he would like to make arrangements for its removal to the Settlement.

No information of a reliable or constructive nature can be obtained from the head offices of the firms whose factories are near to the scene of the explosion. Two firms are extremely reticent and one has been discovered in a misstatement of fact, and there is no doubt that the incident has placed one firm in an embarrassing position. In view of possible international repercussions, Mr. Faupel has requested the Consular Department to watch developments.


D. S. 1.

D.C. (Special Branch).

EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES

1) To Soongwu Garrison Commander's Headquarters.
From Lee Chong (利昌) & Co., No. UV 164 Moulin Road.
Dated: 27.10.37.

4 pieces of iron housing	\$122.00
4 big gears	42.00
4 aluminum fin leaves	20.00
8 pieces iron switch puncher shells	76.00
9 " motor covers	34.20
4 brass shaft housings	32.00
12 gear bushings	12.00
Grinding 5 pieces of motor shafts	7.50

Total \$245.70.

2) Four bills issued by Kung Tai Chang & Co. (恒泰祥), 324-5 North Soochow Road, office at 499 Avenue Edward VII.

(a) Bill dated October 1, 1937.
Three pieces of carbon steel and one bottle of "fluid". \$1.04.

(b) Bill dated October 21, 1937.
10 screws (brass, round head) .3.70
10 screw nuts (brass)
2 lbs of fibre bush

(c) Bill dated October 27, 1937.
1 set Hand Taps, 1/4" "Gtol" \$2.20 Total \$2.28.
1 gro. machine screw $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}$.68

(d) Bill dated October 31, 1937, issued to Silver Taxi service.
32 feet steel wire \$2.24.

3) From Yui Dah (裕大) Metal Ware Shop, 697 Peking Road.
31.10.37.
 $\frac{3}{4}$ " pipe joints, 8 pieces. Total \$1.72.
Pipe covers, 8 pieces.

4) From Yuan Zang (源長) Metal Ware Shop, North Soochow Road, west of Honan Road Bridge. 31.10.37.
Six steel plates, 4 feet by 8 feet by 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. \$39.06.

5) From Zoen Dah (錦大) Metal Ware Shop, north of Fokien Road Bridge. 19.10.37.
68 pieces of round iron Total \$23.97.
184 pieces of square iron

6) From Doong Yuan Ziang (同源祥) Metal Ware Shop, west of Peking and Chekiang Roads. 19.10.37.
Soldering iron .80
Brass pipe 2.50 Total \$5.17.
Soldering tin.

7) To Soongwu Garrison Commander's Headquarters.
From Zung Van Loong (鄭萬隆) Iron Foundry, 12/4 Tsung Shing Li, Avenue Road. 25.10.37.
27 lbs. of aluminum, @ \$1.20 \$32.40.

8) From Nyi Chong (義昌) Metal Ware Shop, corner of Peking and Chekiang Roads. 31.10.37.
One pound. Thread bush. 40 cents.

9) ~~2~~ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " angled iron, 4 pieces. \$6.25.
Bill from Ching Chong Iron Shop (清昌), 514, 518 North Soochow Road. Dated 28.10.37. Issued to Soongwu Garrison Commander's Headquarters.

(3)

10) Tsui Nai Tai Shing Metal Shop (勝德興), 350 Woo Feh Loong, corner of Shensee and Ingpo Roads. Dated.
One barrel \$3.00

11) Yung Zung (永興) Metal Ware shop, corner of Chekiang and Chefoo Roads. 28.10.37.
Seven tin sheets \$18.50.

12) Sung Chong Ziang Iron Shop (森昌祥), corner of Chekiang and Chefoo Roads. 19.10.37.
Seven iron bars 70 cents.

13) Yah Foong (楊丰) Iron Shop, 371, south of Chukking Rd. Bridge. 20.10.37.
35 thin pieces of iron \$1.38.

14) Yah Foong Iron Shop, address as above. 27.10.37.
2" bent iron, 18 pieces. \$2.26.

15) Tien Sung Kee (丁森記), no address. Dated "26.11.19" (?)
One iron barrel \$1.00

16) Zienh Zung (祥順) Tar Shop, North Gate (New). 23.10.37.
11 lbs. roof tar \$1.64.

17) To Soongwu Garrison Commander's Headquarters. From Sing Tai (新泰) Mineral Ash Hong, 264 Rue Matari. 23.10.37.
5 bags of cement \$20.40

18) Woo Foong (和丰) Metal Ware Shop, Outside New North Gate. 23.10.37.
11 lbs. of Rain and rust proof Tar \$1.72.

19) Tien Foh Yuan (天福源), Route des Soeurs, No. 60. 30.10.37.
White paint, oil and red paint. \$2.48.

20) Kung Woo Zung Coal Shop (公和興), corner of Rue Shisi and Frelupt.
Issued to Sea Surveying Bureau. 28.10.37.
Charcoal \$2.00.

21) Lee Yuan Lumber Shop (利源), Rue Lt. Petiot. Oct. 19, 1937.
Pole
Wooden ~~expedite~~ and board \$11.25

PARTY MAY CROSS TO SEEK ROBERTSON

**Information Is Awaited
From Pootung On Fate
Of Missing American**

BELIEF IS EXPRESSED THAT MAN WOUNDED

Hopes of seeing Mr. C. M. Robertson alive and back to the safety of the International Settlement once again were expressed in many circles yesterday, who have been conducting official inquiries with a view to locating the American auto mechanic, who had been missing in Pootung since last Thursday.

Whether or not any official information will be forthcoming today from the Chinese officials in Pootung regarding the fate of the missing American, it is believed that a party, probably headed by some officer of the United States Consulate or the United States Court for China, will cross over to Pootung to make inquiries on the spot.

Strong belief to the effect that Mr. Robertson has been wounded and is being taken care of in some hospital or Red Cross establishment in Pootung was expressed last night by well-informed circles, who added that neither Robertson himself nor the Chinese caring for him had an opportunity to send word over to Shanghai.

The wife of the missing man, Mrs. C. M. Robertson, proprietor and operator of Radio Station XQHB at Rue Maresca, was bearing up under great stress and expressing the hope that her husband would come through safe and sound.

Conflicting reports have thus far been coming through regarding the fate of the American, who had gone over with a Mr. Lam Wing-yan, prominent Chinese businessman and technician, and a party of Chinese workers to Pootung on Thursday. Some reports stated that both Mr. Lam and Mr. Robertson had been killed, while others reported that Mr. Robertson had been wounded.

Mr. Robertson has been for many years in Shanghai, always connected with the automobile business. He is operating his own business, the Shanghai Auto Service, on Avenue Haig.

No Clues Yet Found In Robertson Mystery

American Consular Officials Investigating

The disappearance of Mr. C. M. Robertson, local American resident of whom nothing has been heard since he crossed the river to Pootung last Thursday, continued to remain an unsolved mystery until early this morning.

Conflicting reports about him could not be ascertained or disproved yesterday. These are to the effect that he was killed when struck by an exploding Japanese bomb while working on a job in Pootung, and that he is still alive and well.

The 16-year-old Chinese apprentice who told the story of Mr. Robertson's death to Mrs. Robertson, proprietress of radio station XQHB, later retracted his story. At first the apprentice asserted that Mr. Robertson together with Mr. Lam Wing-yan, prominent Chinese technician, had been killed by the bomb, and that he had been able to identify the body of Mr. Lam. Later, he denied the story, saying that he could not possibly know since the first thing he remembered after the explosion was that he was dragged out from under a pile of debris and placed into a Red Cross hospital in Pootung.

Because of the incomprehensible conflicting reports American consular authorities plan to send representatives into Pootung in order to clear up the affair.

Mrs. Robertson, chief announcer and sole operator of station XQHB, told a CHINA PRESS representative that she did not know what to think or hope. Mr. Robertson spurned her worry about his trip to Pootung, saying that he had a job to do and that there was no possibility of danger. He would give her no specific description of the nature of the job, although she understood it to be mechanical work, this being in her husband's line.

Disappearance Of Robertson Still Unsolved

Different Stories Told By Workman Add To Mystery

The fate of Mr. C. M. Robertson, owner of the Shanghai Auto Service, FB358 Avenue Haig, was still a mystery last night. Reports that he was killed when struck by shrapnel from an exploding Japanese bomb while working in Pootung Thursday afternoon, could not be confirmed.

THE CHINA PRESS was informed last night that the 16-year-old Chinese apprentice, who told the story to Mrs. Robertson that her husband together with 12 Chinese were killed by a Japanese bomb, has retracted his statement. He has supplied no other story as a substitute, however.

In his original tale, the apprentice said that Mr. Robertson together with Mr. Lam Wing-yan, prominent Chinese technician, had been killed by the bomb and that he had been able to identify the body of Mr. Lam. He also stated that four other Chinese were wounded and that they are being cared for in the Chinese Red Cross Hospital at Pootung.

Stories Differ

The families of several Chinese workmen supposed to be with Mr. Robertson at the time of the alleged bombing have told a wide variety of tales, some insisting that he just strayed away from the party and got lost while others have told the story that he was injured and could not get back to Shanghai.

As a result of these conflicting stories, the American consular authorities yesterday afternoon commenced an official investigation. It is understood that they plan to send men to Pootung to find out just what did happen. They hope to clear up the matter within a day or two.

In the meantime, Mrs. Robertson is bravely carrying on as the chief announcer and sole operator of her radio station XQHB at 274 Rue Maresca. All broadcasts are being given as usual.

Mr. Robertson is an old China hand, having lived in Tientsin and Shanghai for more than 20 years. He came to this country as a first sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps and after entering civilian life, moved from North China to Shanghai. He has resided here for about nine years, having been associated with several automobile establishments including Mark L. Moody, Inc., and Cathay Motors, as service manager. In recent years, he has been operating his own concern.

No Definite News On Fate Of Robertson

Chinese Coming Back
Has Several Different
Stories To Tell

U.S. AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING

Rumour That Party Had Been Killed By Hit Of Japanese Bomb

No definite news regarding the fate of Mr. C. M. Robertson, well-known American automobile mechanic, who had gone over to Pootung with a party of Chinese on Thursday morning, could be obtained last night, despite the fact that American Consular authorities had taken it upon themselves to make inquiries regarding the fate of their national, who is believed to be still in Pootung, alive, wounded or dead.

Rumours were circulating yesterday to the effect that he, together with 13 other Chinese of the party of 16, was a victim of a direct hit by a Japanese bomb in Pootung on Thursday afternoon.

Conflicting reports however, had been received by the wife of the missing man, Mrs. C. M. Robertson, proprietor and operator of Radio Station XQHB at Rue Maresca. A Chinese, who came back from Pootung on Thursday afternoon, told her several different tales. He stated that bombs had dropped near the party and that he had run away. He gave several different localities where the bombs were supposed to have dropped. Altogether he was not sure whether any one was hit or killed in the party, but rather seemed to think to the contrary.

On Special Work

Mr. Robertson it is understood had been employed by Mr. Lam Wing-yan, prominent Chinese businessman and technician, whose body it was reported yesterday, had been identified. Mr. Robertson had been assisting and supervising some special work for Mr. Lam.

One rumour had it that 12 of the 16 workmen were killed and that four are lying at the Red Cross Hospital in Pootung.

Mr. Robertson has been in China for many years and is well-known in Shanghai. He was honourably discharged from the U. S. Army after several years of service during the World War. He is operating his own firm, the Shanghai Auto Service at FB58 Avenue Haig. He was formerly connected with the Cathay Motors as Service Manager, with Mark L. Moody as Service Superintendent and with the Silver Taxi Company as Service Manager.

C. M. Robertson Believed Killed

Well Known American Said Dead In Big Explosion

Mr. C. M. Robertson, well known American automobile mechanic, is believed dead together with 13 other Chinese, victims of a direct hit by a Japanese bomb on Thursday afternoon in Pootung. The blast shook the central district and left a huge column of black smoke.

He had been employed by Mr. Lam Wing-yan, prominent Chinese businessman and technician, whose body was identified. Mr. Robertson had been assisting and supervising some special work. Of the 16 Chinese workers, 12 were killed outright and four are now in the Chinese Red Cross hospital, Pootung. A 15-year-old apprentice brought the news yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Robertson was an Old China Hand, having lived in Tientsin and Shanghai for 20 years. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps with the rank of First Sergeant at Tientsin, after many years of service. He came to Shanghai about nine years ago. During the past few years he has been associated with Cathay Motors as Service Manager, with Mark L. Moody Company as Service Superintendent and with the Silver Taxi as Service Manager. He up until now was operating his own firm, the Shanghai Auto Service at FB358 Avenue Haig. Mrs. Robertson is the proprietor and operator of radio station XQHE, on Rue Maresca.

Robertson Case Left Unsolved

Burning Of Large Areas Of Pootung Puts End To Investigation

The mysterious disappearance in Pootung of Mr. C. M. Robertson, American operator of the Shanghai Auto Service on Avenue Haig, will remain unsolved with the burning of a large area of houses and godowns on the other side of the river yesterday, which was completely taken over by the Japanese from 8 o'clock in the morning.

Early in the week, American authorities, who had launched an inquiry into the disappearance of the auto mechanic, who had gone over into Pootung on Thursday morning, November 4, were preparing to go over to the other side of the Whangpoo to make inquiries on the spot. However, with the occupation of the area by the Japanese troops yesterday this course of action is now closed.

It is now generally believed that Mr. Robertson was killed in the explosion that occurred not far from the Yee Tsong Tobacco Factory on the Pootung side at about 3 o'clock on the afternoon of November 4. He, together with a Mr. Lam Wing-yan, prominent Chinese businessman and technician, as well as 12 of the Chinese workmen, who were with them, were killed by a bomb explosion.

Later these reports were contradicted, observers from the Settlement stating that no planes were overhead at the time the explosion occurred. Two workmen who were in the party brought over conflicting reports and until yesterday could not make up their minds as to what had actually happened.

The wife of the missing man, Mrs. Robertson, is the proprietor and operator of Radio Station XQHB at Rue Maresca. She stated that she had pleaded with her husband not to go across to Pootung. She could not state what his mission was and it will probably always remain a mystery. The hope that Mr. Robertson is still alive is very faint.

Investigation Of Robertson Case Still Continues

Authorities May Visit Scene Of Explosion In Pootung

The mystery of what happened to Mr. C. M. Robertson, American owner of the Shanghai Auto Service, may be cleared up today provided the United States authorities can get their investigators across the Whangpoo.

Up to the present time, those in charge of the investigation have depended almost entirely upon information brought from Pootung by workmen who were with Mr. Robertson and Chinese refugees.

If present plans materialize, the investigators will themselves personally visit the zone to inquire into a mystery explosion which occurred at 3 p.m. Thursday of last week in the vicinity of the Yee Tsong Tobacco Company's factory at Pootung.

This was the same day that Mr. Robertson together with several workmen went to Pootung to handle a special job of work for a Chinese technician.

Some of the Chinese refugees coming across the river Sunday and Monday reported that a Japanese aerial bomb had caused the explosion but foreign observers who witnessed the blast from this side of the Whangpoo report that there were no Japanese planes over Pootung at the time.

In view of the fact that one week has elapsed since Mr. Robertson went to Pootung, it is now generally believed that he is dead. A definite statement to this effect, however, cannot be made until the body, or at least parts of it have been found.

MYSTERY OF MISSING AMERICAN

Refugee Says Foreigner Was Among Dead in Explosion

Belief that Mr. C. M. Robertson, the local American owner of the Shanghai Auto Service, who has been missing since last Thursday, has been killed was strengthened by reports brought to Shanghai by refugees from Pootung yesterday.

A huge explosion in the vicinity of the B.A.T. factory at Pootung occurred last Thursday and as Mr. Robertson in company with Mr. Lam Wing-yen had departed for Pootung on a special job in that area it was feared that he had been killed. Yesterday, refugees from Pootung reported to a foreigner that a foreigner and 11 Chinese were killed when a Japanese aeroplane dropped two bombs and a terrific explosion followed. The party were working on a military position at the time.

7/22/41
C. H.

November 7, 1937.

Journal de Shanghai :-

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF AN AMERICAN
CITIZEN IN POOTUNG.

Mr. C. M. Robertson, an American citizen who has been missing for the past three days, is still unlocated and it is feared that he is dead.

According to one report, it is probable that he has been killed by a bomb dropped from a Japanese aeroplane. It is said that thirteen Chinese who were with him at the time were also killed.

This, in effect, was the report made by a young apprentice who had accompanied Mr. Robertson to Pootung but when more closely questioned the Chinese youth retracted his report.

Mr. Robertson was engaged as a mechanic in the service of Mr. Lam Wing Yan, a Chinese technical expert. The apprentice declared that the body of Mr. Lam was identified after the explosion of the bomb.

However, several workers who accompanied Mr. Robertson declare that they lost sight of Mr. Robertson while in Pootung and they have no idea as to where he had gone.

Mr. Robertson, who has lived in China for 20 years, is the proprietor of the Shanghai Auto Service on Avenue Haig. His wife is the proprietress of the XQHE broadcasting station.

The American authorities have opened an investigation and will probably dispatch officials to Pootung in an endeavour to locate the remains of Mr. Robertson should he be dead.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S.1, Special Branch. ~~SECRET~~

REPORT

Date. November 6, 1937.

Subject. Reported disappearance of Mr. C.M. Robertson, American, in Pootung.

Made by D.S.I. Laurier

Forwarded by *C. L. Laurier*

It has been reported to me that Mr. C.M. Robertson, American, the husband of Mrs. Robertson, owner and operator of X.Q.H.B. radio station, 276 Rue Maresca, proceeded to Pootung on the morning of November 4th in company with a Chinese gardener formerly employed by him at the Point, Yangtszepoo and two Chinese motor mechanics. The party was due back in the Settlement at 4.30 p.m. the same day but up to the present Mr. Robertson and one of the Chinese has failed to return. The other Chinese, who showed signs of injury to the head, returned on November 5th and told Mrs. Robertson that his companion who had accompanied the party, one named Lum Wang Ying, was killed by a bomb which dropped between the Olivier Engineering Works and the Yih Tsong Tobacco Company factory at 3.15 p.m. on November 4th. He could not, however, say what had happened to Mr. Robertson or the other member of the party.

S 2
and enqurys
for first news
know abt Pootung
and visited +
places in Po
before visit
11/8 Nov. 1937

Mrs. Robertson, it is understood, now desires the Police to investigate the circumstances if possible with a view to ascertaining the fate of her husband.

From enquiries of a tentative nature which have been made no confirmation of the injury or death of a foreigner in Pootung during the last few days can be obtained.

Re: Laurier
D. S. I.

D.C. (Special Branch).